

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01   SOFIA 01585 221027Z  
ACTION SCS-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCA-01 L-03 IO-14 DHA-02  
H-02 /040 W

-----033384 221038Z /13

P 220804Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3282

UNCLAS SOFIA 1585

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CARR

SUBJECT: LEGAL REPRESENTATION AVAILABLE TO AMERICANS ARRESTED IN  
BULGARIA

REF: STATE 147704

1. THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS ON THE AVAILABILITY AND RELATIVE  
QUALITY OF LEGAL COUNSEL FOR AMERICANS ARRESTED, ON TRIAL,  
OR IMPRISONED IN BULGARIA ARE KEYED TO PARA TWO REFTEL  
QUERIES:

A. LEGAL COUNSEL OF THE "PUBLIC DEFENDER" TYPE IS AVAIL-  
ABLE IN BULGARIA. IN CASES INVOLVING SERIOUS OFFENSES,  
THE COURT WILL DESIGNATE LEGAL COUNSEL, ON THE ADVICE OF  
THE LAWYERS' UNION, IF THE DEFENDANT DOES NOT ALREADY HAVE  
OR CANNOT AFFORD SUCH. IN CASES OF MINOR OFFENSES, THE  
DEFENDANT MUST REQUEST THE ASSIGNMENT OF LEGAL COUNSEL AND  
PROVIDE THE COURT WITH A REASON FOR THE REQUEST.

B. SUCH LEGAL REPRESENTATION IS READILY AVAILABLE IN  
BULGARIA. THE DEFENDANT'S REQUEST FOR LEGAL COUNSEL IS  
PROCESSED BY THE LOCAL BRANCH OF THE LAWYERS' UNION, WHICH  
SELECTS AND ASSIGNS A LAWYER TO THE CASE. THE LAWYERS'  
UNION IS AN ADMINISTRATIVE BODY FOR ALL LAWYERS IN BULGARIA.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02   SOFIA 01585 221027Z

C. THE QUALITY OF LEGAL COUNSEL ASSIGNED TO A CASE OF  
AN AMERICAN WOULD PROBABLY DEPEND ON THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE  
CRIME. IT IS MORE LIKELY THAT AN EXPERIENCED LAWYER WILL  
BE ASSIGNED TO CASES INVOLVING SERIOUS CRIMES AND MINOR  
CASES WILL BE GIVEN TO JUNIOR LAWYERS, WHO ARE NOT CARRYING  
A FULL CASE LOAD. THE LAWYER SELECTED BY THE LAWYERS' UNION  
CANNOT REFUSE HIS ASSIGNMENT TO A CASE.

2. CASES INVOLVING AN AMERICAN IN SOFIA WOULD PROBABLY BE ASSIGNED TO A LAWYER OF THE LAW OFFICE FOR FOREIGN LEGAL MATTERS, 31 ALABIN STREET, SOFIA. LAWYERS WITH THIS OFFICE SPECIALIZE IN CASES OF FOREIGN LEGAL ACTIONS, COURT ACTIONS IN BULGARIA ON BEHALF OF FOREIGNERS, AND LEGAL PROBLEMS OF THE FOREIGN EMBASSIES AND REPRESENTATIVES IN BULGARIA. IT SHOULD BE UNDERSTOOD, OF COURSE, THAT ANY BULGARIAN LAWYER DEFENDING A FOREIGN CLIENT WILL ENDEAVOR TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER THERE ARE ANY "POLITICAL ASPECTS" TO THE CASE, AND WILL ACT ACCORDINGLY.  
HERZ

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 22-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977SOFIA01585  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770261-0175  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** SOFIA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770728/aaaaayff.tel  
**Line Count:** 74  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** e2b85b65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION SCS  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 STATE 147704  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 13-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1774508  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** LEGAL REPRESENTATION AVAILABLE TO AMERICANS ARRESTED IN BULGARIA  
**TAGS:** CARR  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/e2b85b65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009